

In The Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An implant system, comprising:
 - an implant having a central axis and comprising:
 - an interior bore having a non-round section,
 - an implant feedback feature in the interior bore, the implant feedback feature including an enlarged groove within the bore that is spaced below the non-round section by a distance that is greater than an axial dimension of the enlarged groove measured in a direction of the central axis, and
 - a threaded section located distal of the implant feedback feature;
 - an abutment adapted to be attached to the implant and comprising:
 - a post,
 - a stem extending from the post adapted to fit in the interior bore, wherein the stem comprises a complimentary feedback feature adapted to cooperate with the implant feedback feature and provide feedback to a practitioner indicating when the abutment is properly seated, the complementary feedback feature includes resilient fingers that snap outwardly into the enlarged groove to provide a tactile feedback, the stem having a non-round section for anti-rotational engagement with the non-round section of the implant interior bore, and
 - a through-bore through the post and the stem; and
 - an abutment screw adapted to fit within the through-bore and axially retain to the abutment in the implant, the abutment screw comprising:
 - a screw head adapted to interface with the abutment, and
 - a distal end comprising threads adapted to engage the threaded section of the implant.
2. (Previously Presented) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the resilient fingers deform inwardly as the abutment is being seated before snapping outwardly into the enlarged groove.

3. (Previously Presented) The implant system of claim 2, wherein the resilient fingers are integral with the stem.

4. (Previously Presented) The implant system of claim 3, wherein the enlarged groove of the implant feedback feature comprises a lip and the resilient fingers are positioned to interface with the lip after being deformed inwardly.

5. (Previously Presented) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the implant feedback feature is located in a region within the bore that is within an externally threaded region of the implant.

6. (Previously Presented) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the abutment is a single unitary piece.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The implant system of claim 1, wherein the feedback provided is both audible and tactile.

10. (Previously Presented) An implant system, comprising:

an implant comprising:

an interior bore having an anti-rotational non-round cross section,
an internal implant feedback feature including an undercut surface within the interior bore, the undercut surface having a diameter that is larger than a diameter of a cylindrical wall of the interior bore located directly above the undercut surface, and

an internal axial retention section within the interior bore and distal of the internal feedback feature;

an abutment mated to the implant comprising:

a post extending beyond the implant,
a stem extending in a relative direction downward from the post and adapted to fit in the implant and comprising a feedback feature expanding outwardly and engaging the undercut surface of the implant internal feedback feature to provide a practitioner with an indication of when the abutment is properly seated in the implant, the stem having a non-round cross section for engagement with the anti-rotational non-round cross section of the implant, and
a through-bore extending through the post and the stem and comprising a first diameter and a second diameter larger than the first diameter, the first diameter being closer to the internal axial retention section of the implant than the second diameter when the abutment is seated in the implant; and
an abutment retention shaft adapted to fit in the through-bore and comprising:
a first effective diameter larger than the first diameter of the through-bore, and
a shank extending through the through-bore, wherein the shank comprises a complimentary axial retention section adapted to couple with the internal axial retention section of the implant, wherein the shaft limits axial movement of the abutment when the shaft is positioned in the through-bore and effectively coupled to the internal axial retention section of the implant.

11. (Currently Amended) An implant, comprising:
an internal feedback feature adapted to interface with an abutment for providing feedback indicating when the abutment is properly seated;
an internal axial retention section distal of the internal feedback feature and adapted to couple with an abutment retention shaft extending through the abutment to limit axial movement of the abutment relative to the implant;
a first internal anti-rotation feature proximal of the internal axial retention section, said first internal anti-rotational feature having a non-round cross-section; and

a second internal anti-rotation feature that is distinct from and proximal of the first internal anti-rotation feature, said second internal anti-rotational feature having a non-round cross-section.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A dental implant system comprising the implant of claim 11 in combination with the abutment.

14. (Currently Amended) An abutment in combination with an axial retention screw, the abutment comprising:

a post adapted to support a prosthetic tooth;

a stem extending in a relative direction downward from the post and being adapted to fit in an interior bore of an implant, the stem comprises a distal end opposite the post and a feedback feature including a plurality of resilient fingers adapted to interface with the implant to provide a practitioner with an indication of when the abutment is properly seated in the implant, the indication provided to the practitioner is tactile and sufficient to be felt by the practitioner, the stem having a non-round section for anti-rotational engagement with a non-round section of the implant, the plurality of resilient fingers being located on a diameter that is greater than a diameter of a an intermediate wall section of the stem that is located immediately above the plurality of resilient fingers and between the non-round section and the plurality of fingers; and

a through-bore extending through the stem and the post, wherein the through-bore receives the axial retention screw for limiting axial movement of the abutment in response to the screw threadably engaging the interior bore of the implant.

15. (Previously Presented) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the feedback feature is located at the distal end of the stem.

16. (Previously Presented) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the through-bore comprises a first effective diameter and a second effective diameter distal of and smaller than the first effective diameter.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The abutment and axial retention screw combination of claim 14, wherein the indication provided to the practitioner when the abutment is properly seated is both tactile and audible and sufficient to be both heard and felt by the practitioner.

20. (Previously Presented) A dental implant system, comprising:

a dental implant having an exterior surface for contacting bone, said dental implant having an internal bore with a threaded section, a non-round cross-section portion, and an enlarged groove, said enlarged groove being separated from said non-round cross-section portion by a wall section, said enlarged groove having a maximum diameter that is larger than a diameter of said wall section;

an abutment having a stem fitting within said internal bore and a through-bore, said stem including a resilient section that has a diameter that is greater than said diameter of said wall section, said resilient section, upon insertion into said internal bore, initially contracts when moving past said wall section and then expands outwardly into said enlarged groove in response to said abutment being properly mated to said implant, said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to provide a feedback concerning said abutment, said stem further including a non-round cross-section portion for anti-rotational engagement with said non-round cross-section portion of said implant; and

a screw passing through said through-bore of said abutment and threadably engaging said threaded section of said internal bore of said implant, said screw axially retaining said abutment on said dental implant.

21. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said enlarged groove is circumferentially located around said bore.

22. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said enlarged groove is above said threaded section.

23. (Original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section comprises a plurality of fingers.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said internal bore comprises two distinct anti-rotational features, one of said two distinct anti-rotational features being said non-round cross-section portion.

26. (Original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said screw comprises a head that is seated within said through-bore of said abutment when said screw is engaging said threaded section of said internal bore.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said feedback provided is audible.

29. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said feedback provided is tactile.

30. (Previously Presented) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said feedback provided is both audible and tactile.

31. (Original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to resist axial movement of said abutment relative to said implant.

32. (Original) The dental implant system of claim 20, wherein said resilient section and said enlarged groove combine to apply an axial retention force to said abutment.

33-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) An abutment for attachment to a dental implant in combination with an axial retention screw, comprising:

a post adapted to support a prosthetic tooth;

a stem extending in a relative direction downward from the post and adapted to be fit in an interior bore of the dental implant, the stem comprises a feedback feature including a plurality of resilient fingers adapted to engage a corresponding feature in the dental implant to provide a practitioner with an indication of when the abutment is properly seated in the dental implant, the stem further having a non-round section for anti-rotational engagement with a non-round section of the implant, the plurality of fingers being located on a diameter that is greater than a diameter of an intermediate wall section of the stem, the intermediate stem section being located that is immediately above the plurality of fingers and between the non-round section and the plurality of fingers; and

a through-bore extending through the stem and the post, the through-bore ~~for~~ receiving an the axial retention screw for limiting axial movement of the abutment in response to the screw threadably engaging the interior bore of the implant.

42. (Currently Amended) The abutment and screw combination dental implant system of claim 41, wherein the plurality of fingers are separated by slots, the slots extending into the intermediate wall section of the stem.

43. (Currently Amended) The abutment and screw combination dental implant system of claim 41, wherein the non-round section has a width dimension larger than the diameter of the intermediate wall section.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The abutment and screw combination dental implant system of claim 41, wherein the intermediate wall section of the stem is round in cross-section.

46. (New) The implant of claim 11, wherein the internal axial retention section includes an internal threaded wall for threadably receiving a threaded stem of the abutment retention shaft.

47. (New) The implant of claim 11, wherein the internal feedback feature is a groove positioned below the first and second internal anti-rotation features and above the internal axial retention section.

48. (New) The implant of claim 47, wherein the internal axial retention section includes an internal threaded wall for threadably receiving a threaded stem of the abutment retention shaft.